

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Governor Strickland:

As money from the federal government's Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act begins to be released to states, we encourage you to ensure a transparent and open process regarding the State of Ohio's use of federal stimulus dollars.

The website <http://recovery.ohio.gov> is a commendable effort to make stimulus information and project requests available to all Ohioans. We urge, as the process of allocating funding begins, that you appoint an independent, bipartisan oversight board to monitor all stimulus funding that is awarded to Ohio. The board should consist of no more than one sitting elected official from both political parties, as well as members of Ohio's Certified Public Accounting and auditing communities. In addition, in the interest of transparency, we request that <http://recovery.ohio.gov> be updated with a detailed accounting of each expenditure, within 24 hours, from any executive or legislative action which appropriates stimulus dollars.

At a time when Ohio's financial situation is unknown ("**State's Finances Only a Guess Right Now, Auditor Says,**" *Columbus Dispatch*, 03/03/09), and much of the state's next budget relies on \$3.5 billion in temporary stimulus funding and a \$1 billion expenditure from the state's rainy day fund ("**Ohio Budget Director Defends Using One-Time Money,**" *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, 02/25/2009) we believe keeping Ohioans informed of how their tax money is being spent is the only way to fend off abuse or mismanagement.

We opposed the federal stimulus bill and offered a better solution, one that would have created more jobs for Ohio than the legislation enacted into law, without the massive, unprecedented spending on the backs of our children and grandchildren who will ultimately be responsible for the price tag. Even the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says the bill signed into law will harm the economy in the long run because of the massive debt it creates. At the request of President Obama, House Republicans developed a jobs plan that would have created 246,000 much-needed jobs in the Buckeye State (6.2 million nationwide) at about half the cost of congressional Democrats' bill. Unfortunately, our jobs bill was passed over in favor of a government spending bill that is rife with the potential for waste and abuse inherent in the legislation that has been signed into law.

Now that this "stimulus" bill is law, we do hope that it works to boost our economy. We want Ohioans to go back to work, we want families and small business owners to have access to the credit they need, and most of all we want Ohioans to have a bright future.

Working with you, and members of the Ohio Legislature create a transparent and open process, we feel we can help put Ohio back on the right track toward growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

John A. Boehm

Patricia T. Tiller

William G. Batchelder

Bill Harris

Steve Cristina

Armond Budish

Jan Schmidt

Capri Cafaro

Cc: Speaker of the House Armond Budish
Ohio House Minority Leader William G. Batchelder
Ohio Senate President Bill Harris
Ohio Senate Minority Leader Capri Cafaro